



*HANFORD JOINT INFORMATION CENTER  
NEWS RELEASE.003  
Richland, Washington  
June 28, 2000  
7:30 p.m.*

## **FIREFIGHTERS CONTINUE TO BATTLE HANFORD BLAZE**

Fire fighters are continuing to address a brush fire that is on the Department of Energy's Hanford Reservation. The fire crossed State Highway 240 in an easterly direction at approximately 4:30 p.m.

Several different firefighting agencies have responded to the fire. Multiple units from the Washington State Interagency Management Team are assisting the Hanford Fire Department in this effort. The Tri-County Mutual Aid organization is also responding. Air tanker support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency is being staged at Wenatchee and is available to fly at first light, if needed.

Additional resources are available from the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Department in Boise.

The 200 East and West Areas are under a take cover alert due to the heavy smoke. Safe exit routes through unaffected portions of the Hanford site have been arranged for employees leaving the Reservation. Nonessential personnel stationed north of the Wye Barricade are being alerted not to report to work tonight.

The State of Washington, U. S. Fish & Wildlife and U. S. Dept. of Natural Resources are managing a Unified Command Post for the overall fire that has affected over 40,000 acres in southeastern Washington. The Hanford Fire Department is participating under its direction.

The incident is classified as an alert level emergency, which is the lowest of the three DOE emergency categories. An alert level emergency requires activation of Hanford's Emergency Operations Center, which includes communication and consultation with a number of outside agencies.

More information will be made available, as it becomes known. Media inquiries should be directed to the Hanford Joint Information Center at (509) 376-3322; the phone number for Public inquiries is (509) 376-8116. Also, Emergency broadcast information can be heard on KONA Radio on 610 AM and 105.3 FM.

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[\[Hanford Home Page\]](#) [\[Press Index\]](#)

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